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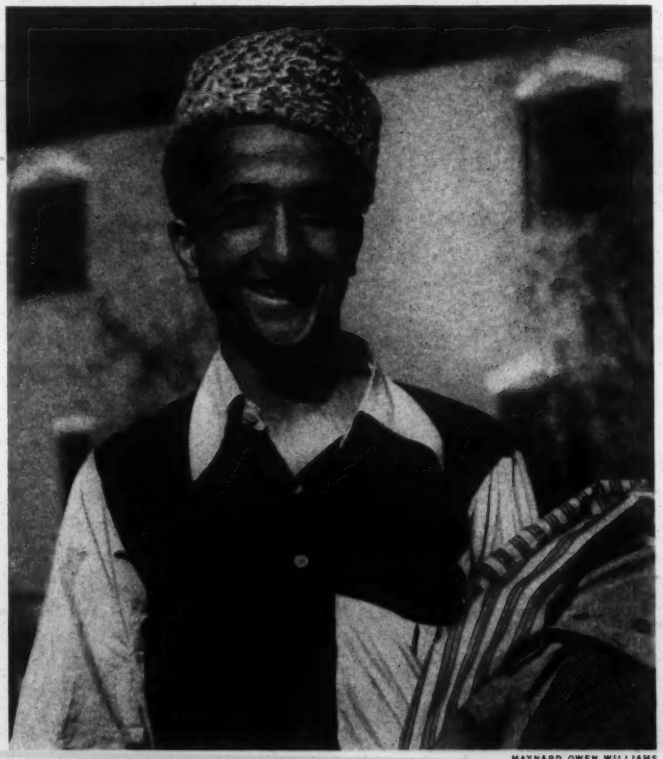

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

A KABUL STUDENT WEARS A CHEERFUL GRIN BELOW HIS JAUNTY KARAKUL CAP

Member of a basketball team coached by Americans, this student of Kabul's Habibia College wears the typical lambskin headgear of Afghanistan (Bulletin No. 3). The once-isolated Asian kingdom is not only adopting American sports, but is importing teachers, engineers, and agricultural experts from the United States.

Bulletin No. 1, November 3, 1952

A New Lord Mayor of London Takes Office

ONE of the most impressive and glittering pageants of the British Commonwealth—the Lord Mayor's Show—will take place on November 10 when the new Lord Mayor of London rides in a gilded coach through the scarred, historic streets of Britain's capital.

Six prancing steeds will pull the state vehicle. The incoming office-holder, Sir Rupert de la Bere, will be accompanied by his predecessor. For a year, each Lord Mayor governs the City of London, a square-mile area in the heart of the huge metropolitan region.

"City" Is Financial Capital

Crimson robes furred with ermine, a pearl sword, and the Crystal Mace, or Sceptre of the City, are among the trappings of ~~this~~ historic office. The head of the mace, which the Lord Mayor will carry when he plays his traditional part in the coronation ceremonies of Queen Elizabeth II, probably dates from the 15th century. The shaft is much older, perhaps even of Saxon origin.

An atmosphere of mellow tradition and authority surrounds the Lord Mayor of London. For centuries, the medieval City of London has been the financial capital of the British Empire, and the official who rules it symbolizes the power and privilege which citizens won from the Crown nearly eight centuries ago.

Among the many offices held by the Lord Mayor are Chief Magistrate, Admiral of the Port, and Commanding General of London; Chairman of the Court of Aldermen and Common Council; and member of the Privy Council. According to tradition, even the Queen must seek permission to enter the city on state visits and is granted the courtesy in a solemn sword presentation at Temple Bar boundary.

How young Dick Whittington rose from poverty to the pinnacle of this august office is one of the world's great success stories. Much of it is legend, but the facts that remain are more impressive than fiction.

Whittington Story Both Fact and Legend

In the familiar tale, Dick was a poor apprentice to a London merchant who was offered, as a jest, a chance to ship something abroad for sale. Having nothing else, he sent his cat. The animal, put up for sale in a Barbary kingdom then overrun by mice, brought a huge sum.

Meanwhile, Dick had run away from home without learning of his riches. He returned to London when he heard the bells of St. Mary-le-Bow ringing out with the prophetic promise that he would be Lord Mayor of London not once, but three times.

Actually, the theme of the valuable cat is the subject of many folk tales. There was a real Richard Whittington, however, member of a titled family, who served four terms as mayor of London. His lasting fame rests not on a fabulous cat and bells, but on the charitable use of his fortune.

Before they were destroyed in the war, the bells of many City churches

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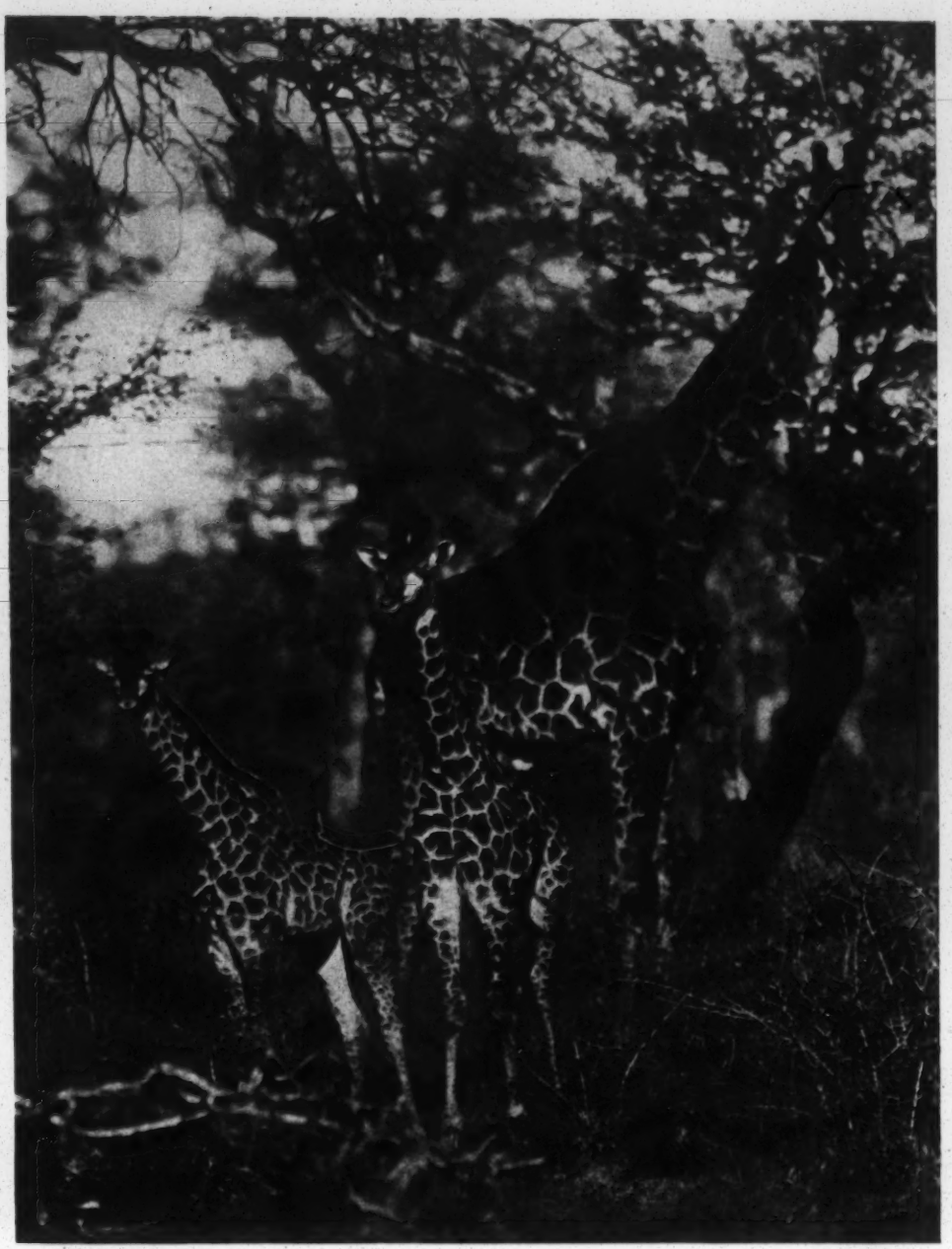

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 4) C. W. SIMONS

EVEN GIRAFFE BABIES TOWER OVER A TALL MAN

In Kruger National Park, in their native Africa, a skyscraper family looks down on the world. The giraffe is the tallest of mammals as well as one of the most oddly shaped. Its incredible neck enables it to eat its meals direct from high tree branches, while its long, flexible tongue is a help when the giraffe bends down to eat grass and vegetation from the ground.

Rabaul Rises from Wreckage of War and Lava

THE Australian government, after serious consideration, has decided to rebuild the town of Rabaul, on New Britain Island.

Not discouraged by World War II destruction and the danger of volcanic eruptions, the government is allotting $223,000 toward construction of a new wharf and approximately $45,000 for repair of roads in the area.

Volcanoes Rim the Harbor

New Britain is the largest island of the Bismarck Archipelago, which is part of the Trust Territory of New Guinea. It is a mountain-spined crescent about 300 miles long and 50 miles wide, lying east of New Guinea and separated from that giant island by Dampier Strait.

Rabaul stands at the extreme northeastern tip of New Britain on Simpson Harbor, the north end of Blanche Bay, which has been called one of the world's most beautiful harbors. Volcanoes, active and dormant, tower above its shores and rise from the water itself to justify the harbor's reputation for splendor.

However, the volcanoes have proved as disastrous as they are decorative. In May, 1937, a new volcano suddenly exploded from the harbor, deluging Rabaul with pumice and lava. Next day another volcano—Matupi, nearer the town—erupted. This dress rehearsal for World War II bombings, which were so soon to follow, covered Rabaul with a frosting of volcanic ash and killed some 300 people. Fearing another such disaster, the government has hesitated about rebuilding the city.

But officials are now convinced that volcanologists can foretell serious eruptions long enough beforehand to enable the residents to escape. Scientists predict that no future eruption will be more severe than those of 1937, and that the risk of damage at the original site of Rabaul is less than that from earthquake at any other possible location.

Before the explosions of war and nature wrecked Rabaul, it was a pleasant, peaceful town, an important port, and center of a thriving copra trade. Poinciana and casuarina trees shaded its well-planned streets. Its pleasant homes, surrounded with broad verandas, stood in gardens fragrant with frangipani and bright with many-colored hibiscus.

Earthquakes Foretell the Eruptions

Presumably the eruptions can be foretold by the vigor and length of the "gurias" which usually precede them. Guria is a local name for repeated, violent earthquakes that rattle the dishes on their shelves and sometimes even knock down buildings. As a rule, residents of Rabaul take the gurias in their stride.

Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, however, were the smallest factors in Rabaul's destruction. Bombs did most of the damage.

The Japanese seized New Britain early in 1942 and took Rabaul after overwhelming the gallant defense put up by local militia (illustration, next page). They brought in thousands of men and much motor equipment—captured at Singapore and Java—built three airstrips in addition

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rang out as the mayor's procession started. Since then, a phonograph record has supplied the music of the bells of St. Mary-le-Bow.

This most ancient of London's churches was blitzed to a mere shell and it is one of the few City churches which will be rebuilt. There is a legend that "anyone born within sound of Bow Bells is a genuine cockney."

The job of being London's mayor was already a well seasoned one when Whittington took office in 1397. The first mayor on record served for 20 years or more from 1191. In 1215, a few weeks before the signing of the Magna Carta, King John granted the citizens of London the right to hold an annual election for their chief official.

The ceremony by which the mayor is selected is an elaborate ritual first carried out in 1384. He is supplied with an impressive home (illustration, below), but no salary goes with the post. Expenses for required formal entertainment and display are often double or more the $35,000 allowed. The mayor must make up the difference from his own pocket.

NOTE: London appears on the National Geographic Society's map of The British Isles. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "A Stroll to London," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for August, 1950; "Kew: The Commoners' Royal Garden," April, 1950; "The British Way," April, 1949; "Keeping House in London," December, 1947; and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 3, 1952, "London Landmarks Link Past to Present." (*Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930-1945; $2.00, 1913-1929. Earlier issues at varied prices.*)

TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY

IN HIS COACH AND SIX, THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON STARTS HIS "SHOW" AT MANSION HOUSE

The parade passes through the mile-square maze of streets that comprises his domain-for-a-year. Mansion House, with imposing Corinthian columns, is a mere 200 years old—"young" by City standards.

Bulletin No. 3, November 3, 1952

Irrigation Reclaims Afghanistan Valley

IN sun-seared valleys of a river that never reaches the sea, American dam builders are helping the one-time "secret kingdom" of Afghanistan reclaim an ancient gardenland. A huge irrigation project, begun six years ago, is nearing completion along the Helmand River and a tributary, the Arghandab, in the barren rocky foothills of southern Afghanistan.

Modern Irrigation System Follows Ancient Lines

To aid in settling farm families on the reclaimed land, a team of American agricultural experts has been selected to take part in the development of the Helmand Valley. The project is sponsored by the forward-looking government of Afghanistan, the United Nations, and the Point Four technical-assistance program of the United States.

The reclamation project follows guideposts of forgotten centuries. Where earth and concrete dams, irrigation canals and ditches appear today, similar systems once watered fertile fields of empires that were old when Darius the Persian and Alexander the Great, Ghengis Khan and Timur marched across this battleground of central Asia, rimmed around by the Soviet Union, Iran, and Pakistan's western section.

The Helmand River may once have been the rival of the Nile, the Tigris, and the Euphrates as a seat of early civilization. Along its lower course, the ruins of great cities of medieval Islam rise starkly from wind-blown wastes of the Dasht-i-Margo, the "Desert of Death." Traces have been found there of even older civilizations.

The desert river flows past signs of irrigation and cultivation reaching back to prehistoric times. Why these regions were deserted is, in many cases, unknown. It is possible that the river may have shifted its course as countless rivers have done. Diminishing rainfall may have dried wells and underground channels. Agricultural peoples may have fled before invading hordes from beyond the mountains.

Disappears into Seistan Depression

Today, from mountains to desert, the winding streams which feed the Helmand River flow through virtually barren hinterland where nomads live in tents of black goatskin and wrest a meager living from the hot, dusty hills. In winter they drive their flocks to milder southern pastures (illustration, next page). Sheep furnish the tribesmen with food and clothing, and wool is the chief "money crop" of the country.

Passing through deserts to the south, the Helmand barely reaches the Iran border before it disappears. It empties not into the sea, but into the Seistan depression. This almost-unexplored region of reeds and swamps is swept by howling gales that blow for months at a time.

Kandahar, trading center and way station on an age-old caravan route to India, is the only major city in the Helmand watershed. Three dams have been built in the region of Kandahar, connected by laterals and interlocking irrigation channels.

Afghanistan is still a land without a railroad, but in many ways it

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to the one already in existence, and made the place into a powerful base.

The Allies decided that an assault on Rabaul would be too costly, so bombing was ordered. The orders were so well obeyed by United States, Australian, and New Zealand pilots that the town became known as "the most bombed spot in the Pacific." Rabaul was practically erased from the face of the earth.

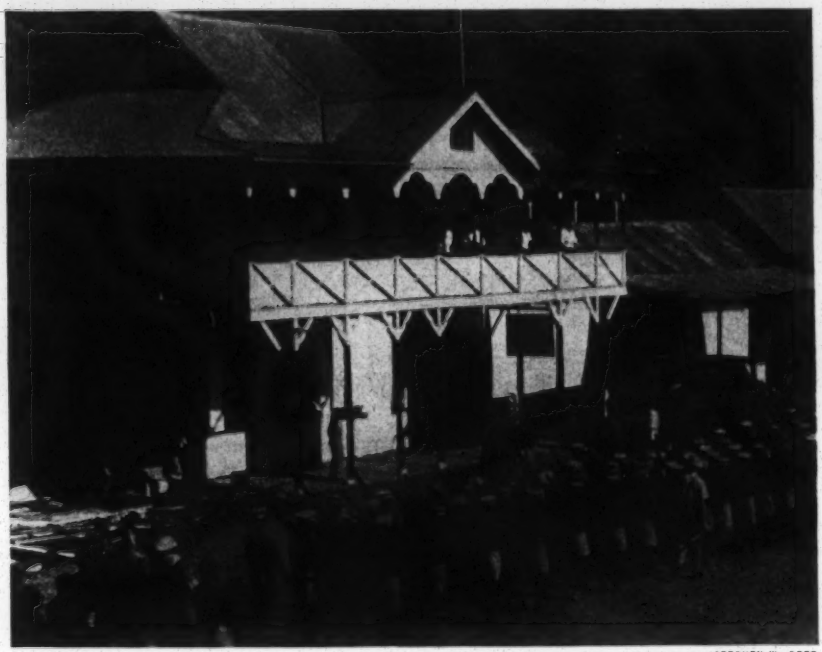
When the Australians moved in at the end of the war, they found jungle 20 to 30 feet high covering the wreckage and the Japanese and remaining natives living in underground tunnels.

In the seven years since the war's end, a temporary town has grown up. Shacks of scrap wood and corrugated iron have taken the place of the comfortable homes and hotels. The harbor has been cleared of mines and wrecked vessels and peaceful ships again move in and out.

Granted a truce in the savagery of nature and man, the islanders may again make Rabaul "the loveliest town in the Pacific."

NOTE: Rabaul may be located on the Society's map of the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal on which New Britain appears in a large-scale inset.

See also, "Treasure Islands of Australasia," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1942.



STEPHEN W. REED

DRILLING FOR A WAR THAT CAME ALL TOO SUDDENLY, A DETACHMENT OF RABAUL'S NATIVE MILITIA MARCHES PAST THE ARCADED WOODEN BUILDINGS OF THE TOWN, LATER DESTROYED

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Bulletin No. 4, November 3, 1952

Washington Zoo Adds New High and New Low

RECENT additions to the zoo in Washington, D. C., represent what might be called—literally—the highest and the lowest forms of animal life. A new giraffe and a pair of rattlesnakes have been added to the population of the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park.

The rattlers (illustration, next page) are specimens of the rarest type in existence. They were collected by Lewis Wayne Walker, a young ex-Marine. The National Geographic Society assisted in the mission that took several years to complete. During the search, Walker's adventures included a shipwreck and an automobile accident, not to mention a good many lesser hardships.

Snakes Arouse Little Admiration

Last June Mr. Walker packed his snakes in a strong carton and shipped them to Dr. William M. Mann, director of the zoo. They arrived in good condition and Dr. Mann installed them in the Reptile House. He identified them as *Crotalus Tortugensis*. Although one of the world's foremost authorities on wild creatures, Dr. Mann has never before seen rattlesnakes of this species.

Although scientists are showing keen interest in the newcomers, the average visitor to the zoo seldom gives the deadly reptiles more than a passing glance. They are an unattractive, dusty gray in color, and not very active. The larger is nearly two feet long and has eight buttons in his rattle. The eyes of both are set in peculiar bulging sockets.

Crotalus Tortugensis was first described scientifically in a publication of the California Academy of Sciences in 1921. These snakes come from the waterless, uninhabited island of Tortuga, 25 miles northeast of Santa Rosalia, halfway down the east, or gulf, coast of Mexico's peninsula of Baja California.

The zoo's new snakes are one of nearly thirty varieties of rattlesnakes. All are members of the highly poisonous pit viper family. They are found only in the Americas, in localities ranging from southern Canada to Uruguay.

Four Nubian Giraffes Start Zoo's Collection

In the same month that saw the arrival in Washington of the rattlesnakes, the zoo's giraffe, Helen, presented a 4½-foot-tall youngster to her admiring public. Fifth to be born at the Washington zoo, the male "baby" was also the first second-generation representative in America of his curious species.

The zoo's giraffe herd was started with four Nubians collected by a National Geographic Society-Smithsonian expedition in 1937. Dr. Mann led the party, which brought back a shipload of nearly 900 animals from far places of the globe.

Dr. Mann has sold several giraffes to other zoos, including one which was safely shipped to Australia.

Giraffes, natives of Africa, may grow as tall as 18 or 19 feet (illustra-

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is making up for the centuries in which all foreign influence and progress were barred.

Today in Kabul, the nation's capital, houses are electrically lighted and American Western heroes flicker across movie screens. In the streets —some paved, some still dusty lanes—automobiles crowd camels, donkeys, and the two-wheeled horse-drawn carts called "tongas."

Educators from America and India teach students of Habibia College (illustration, cover), named for an early 20th-century ruler of Afghanistan. Along the new highways through the hinterland, camel transport gives way to motor trucks. Factories are being built, and new schools opened. The secret kingdom will be secret no more.

NOTE: Afghanistan is shown on the Society's map of Southwest Asia.

For further information, see "Back to Afghanistan," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1946; and "Afghanistan Makes Haste Slowly," December, 1933.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 29, 1948, "Afghanistan Gradually Discards Isolation."

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

IN BULKY WHITE TURBANS AND FLOWING ROBES, AFGHAN SHEPHERDS SEARCH GREENER PASTURES

Driving their flocks south from the Arghandab River country—bleak and barren much of the year—is a long trek for these Afghans. Dams now being constructed under American supervision may alter the life of the region. Forced to roam far afield in search of pasturage, such nomads as these may settle down in a land transformed by irrigation from part-time desert to perpetual green pasture.

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Bulletin No. 5, November 3, 1952

Jamaica's Sunken City Awaits Exploration

SEARCH for pirate treasure and exploration of a drowned city offer a new angle for an old adventure plot which may be dramatized off the Caribbean shore near Kingston, Jamaica.

War and hurricanes have delayed a deep-sea expedition planned to explore and photograph the ruins of the 17th-century pirate stronghold, Port Royal.

Port Royal Has Double Attraction

Besides spectacular pictures, there is also the fascinating possibility of finding, in some coral-encrusted, fish-inhabited buildings the golden hoard believed to have gone down with the city when earthquake and hurricane swept it into the sea in 1692.

The plan is a reminder that many a once-flourishing port has been engulfed by the waters that sustained its life. Many a long-lost fortune lies at the bottom of the sea, but seldom does the combination occur, as at Port Royal, which lures living men to roam the drowned city again.

At the end of The Palisadoes, the long narrow spit which separates Kingston Harbor from the Caribbean, stands the little village of Port Royal, all that remained of the fabulous pirate city after the hurricane and earthquake of 1692. In August, 1951, another hurricane demolished 90% of the village and the government is now rebuilding it along modern lines.

Five miles across the bay, 15 miles by the shore, stands Kingston, capital of the island, where refugees from Port Royal settled after the 1692 disaster. Among Port Royal's few remaining relics of early colonial days is old Fort Charles with its inscription commemorating Lord Nelson's service in the West Indies (illustration, next page).

In Port Royal's heyday buccaneers preyed on the rich colonial traffic plying the Caribbean between Europe and the new world. Through its marts flowed a stream of ill-gotten goods in gold, silver, and literally "bushels" of pearls; in "Pistoles, Pieces of Eight, and other Coynes."

North Sea Has Swallowed English Towns

To this refuge came the lawless of many lands, along with the pirates and their followers, cargoes of slaves, and titled captives taken from vanquished galleons. The excesses and cruelties of the town gained it a reputation as the "wickedest spot on earth." When the news spread that monstrous waves had engulfed Port Royal, people said that the city was being punished for its sins.

Less spectacular, but equally tragic, is the story of most of the other world ports taken over by the sea. Some of the best-known of these lie off the east coast of England, where North Sea waves and winds tirelessly batter the land.

The ancient walled city of Dunwich—once a strategic shipping center of East Anglia, fought a losing battle for hundreds of years against encroaching waters. In the 14th century Dunwich lost 400 houses in one ferocious gulp of the sea. By the middle of the 18th century only a few

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tion, inside cover). The ancients coined the name camelopard for these ruminants, or cud-chewers, because they thought the animals looked like camels with leopard coloration.

The giraffe's exaggerated neck and legs enable it easily to browse from the treetops, but it also can lower its mouth to reach grass and water by awkwardly spreading its forelegs. Its awkwardness disappears, however, when it breaks into the fast, rolling gallop by which it is able to escape its enemies. Like the camel, the giraffe can go without water for long periods of time.

The giraffe is never heard to utter a sound of any kind. Giraffes are easily tamed, but like the mule, kick viciously with hooves sharp enough to shred even lions.

NOTE: For additional information, see "Roaming Africa's Unfenced Zoos," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1950; "Wildlife of Everglades National Park," January, 1949; "The Wonder City That Moves by Night," March, 1948; and "Around the World for Animals," June, 1938.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, May 10, 1948, "Zoo and Circus Animals Become Luxury Items."

LUIS MARDEN

OFFICERS FROM A VISITING UNITED STATES CRUISER WATCH A SNAKE LOSE ITS VENOM

At the "snake farm" of the Butantan Institute in São Paulo, Brazil, technicians extract venom from a rattlesnake. One man grasps the rattler firmly by head and tail; the other, with a steady grip on the reptile's head, forces its mouth open and presses the glands on each side to expell the poison into the cup. The rattlesnake contributes toward a remedy for its own bite. A small amount of the poison is injected into horses and mules. After the animals have built up immunity to the poison, their blood supplies the serum which cures snake bite.

fragments remained of the town that had boasted 52 churches, a "minte," and "a market everie daie in the week."

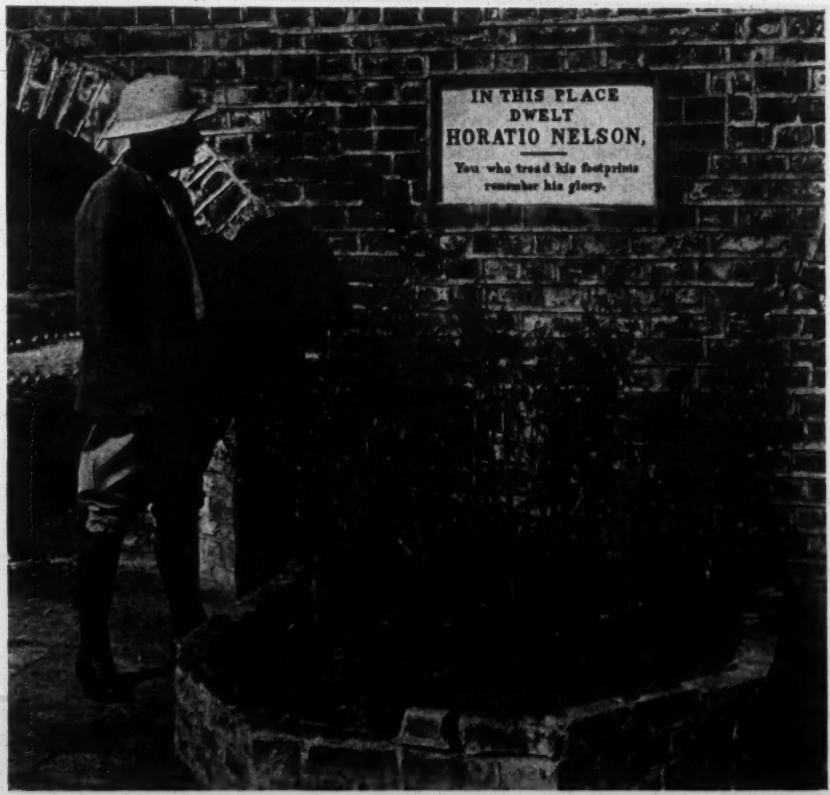
Shipden, Ravenspur, and Old Winchelsea are a few of England's other drowned ports. According to seafarers' legends, the bells of their sunken churches still chime from beneath the waves on Christmas Eve.

Off the Crimean shore of the Black Sea, Russian archeologists, in 1931, reported the discovery of submerged remains of ancient Scythian Khersonesus, or Chersonese. Forty feet under the sea, these ruins of houses, walls, and towers may be part of the more than 2,000-year-old city destroyed by sinking land and perhaps an early earthquake.

But not all sunken towns are the result of nature's cataclysms. Many have been sacrificed to man-made dams and reservoirs, from the Panama Canal area to Egypt. Visitors sailing along the Nile today can look down on submerged villages, complete with mosque and market place, which were abandoned to the waters after the huge Aswan dam was started in 1898.

NOTE: Port Royal is shown on the Society's map of Countries of the Caribbean.

For further information, see "Jamaica, Isle of Many Rivers," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1927.



JACOB GAYER

SET IN A BRICK WALL OF OLD FORT CHARLES AT THE GATE TO KINGSTON HARBOR IS A REMINDER THAT BRITAIN'S GREATEST NAVAL HERO ONCE COMMANDED THIS OUTPOST OF EMPIRE